

# Building Colorado Communities

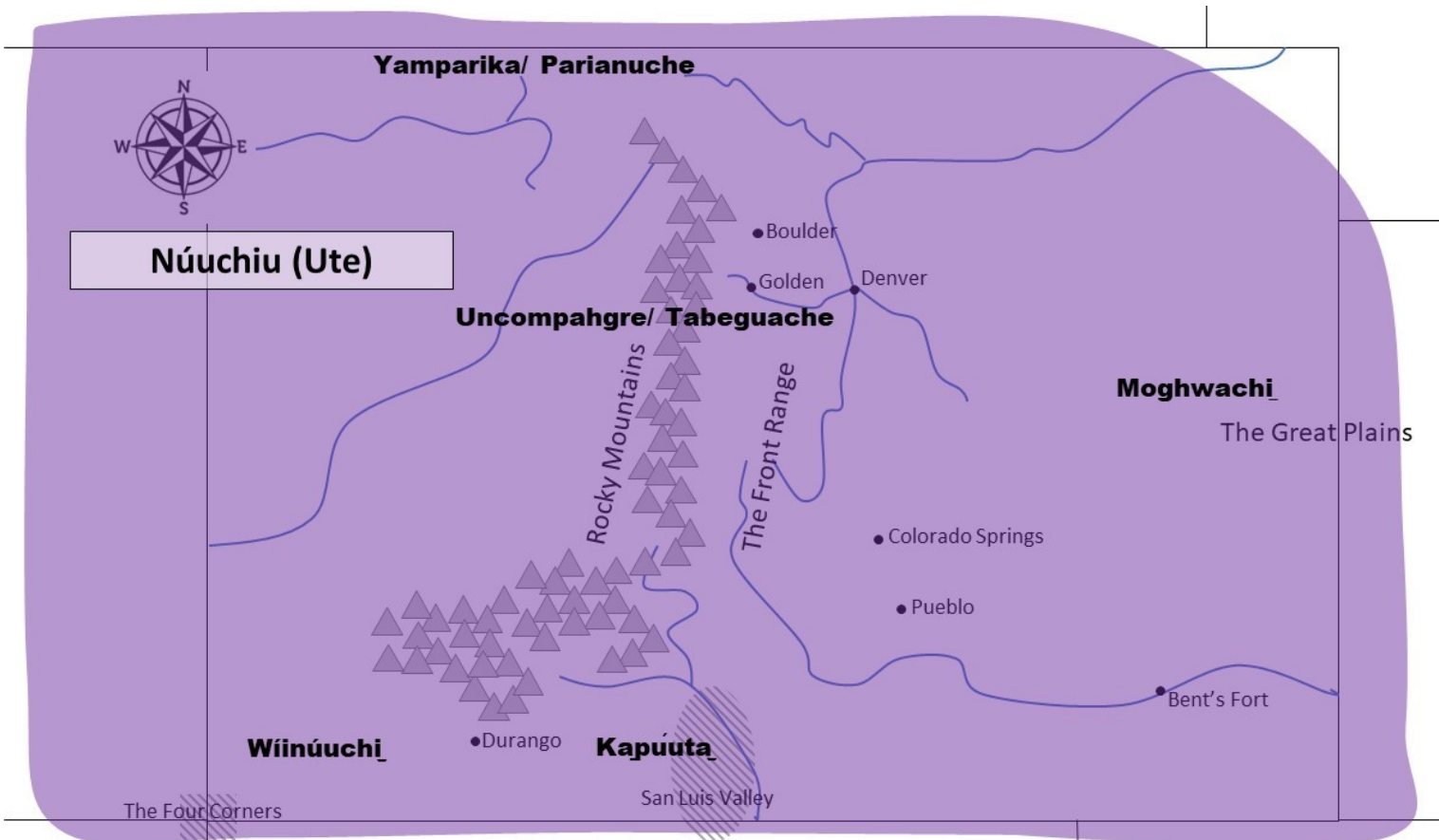
## Community Packet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Núuchiu (Ute)

### Who are the Núuchiu?

- Núuchiu translates to “Ute-Indian People.”
- Ute oral traditions say the Ute people have lived in the modern state of Colorado since their creation. They do not believe they migrated here, but that they have always lived here.
- The Ute people are the oldest continuous residents of Colorado. Evidence suggests that the Ute people first settled in Colorado between 1100 - 1300 CE.



- The Ute people were organized into 12 or more family/ social groups called bands.
- The Ute people traveled throughout the modern states of Colorado, Utah, Kansas, New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming, Oklahoma, and Texas.
- The bands in Colorado were the Yamparia/Parianuche, Ucompaghre/Tabeguache, Moghwachi, and Wiinúuchi.

# Ute Traditional Daily Life



- The Ute people traveled based on the seasons.
- In the spring and fall, men would hunt for large animals such as bison, elk, deer, and antelope. Women would trap smaller game animals and gather wild plants such as berries and fruits.
- During the winter, families would move out of the mountains to find more sheltered locations.

- The Ute people only took what they required to survive from their environment.
- Elk and deer hides (or skins) were used for shelter covers, clothing, and moccasins.
- Ute women became known for their beautiful quill work, which decorated their buckskin dresses, leggings, moccasins, and cradleboards.



## The Ute People Today

The Ute people today are represented by three tribes. The Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe have reservations within Colorado. The Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation is located in Utah. While the Ute people embrace modern ways of life, their traditions such as their language, ceremonies, and connection to the environment are still very important to their daily life.

- Early Ute people lived in domed structures called wikiups that were built with the natural materials around them, such as tree branches.
- Once the Spanish brought the horse to North America around 1500, the Ute people began to use it in their daily lives to carry their belongings, which meant they could start living in bigger more comfortable tipis.





# Building Colorado Communities

## Community Packet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Hispano (Hispanic)

- This community can have many names such as Hispano, Hispanic, Mexican, Mexican American, Latino, Latinx and Chicano because geographic borders and name popularity has changed over time.
- This community can trace its origins to when the Spanish arrived in North America. The Spanish entered the modern state of Colorado in the 1500s CE. When the Spanish arrived, they encountered many indigenous people already living there including the Ute, Cheyenne, and Arapaho.
- In 1821, Mexico gained independence from Spain. This new country of Mexico included the modern states of Colorado, Utah, Nevada, California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas.
- In 1848, borders changed again with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Hispanos living in modern day Colorado were now Americans living in the United States.



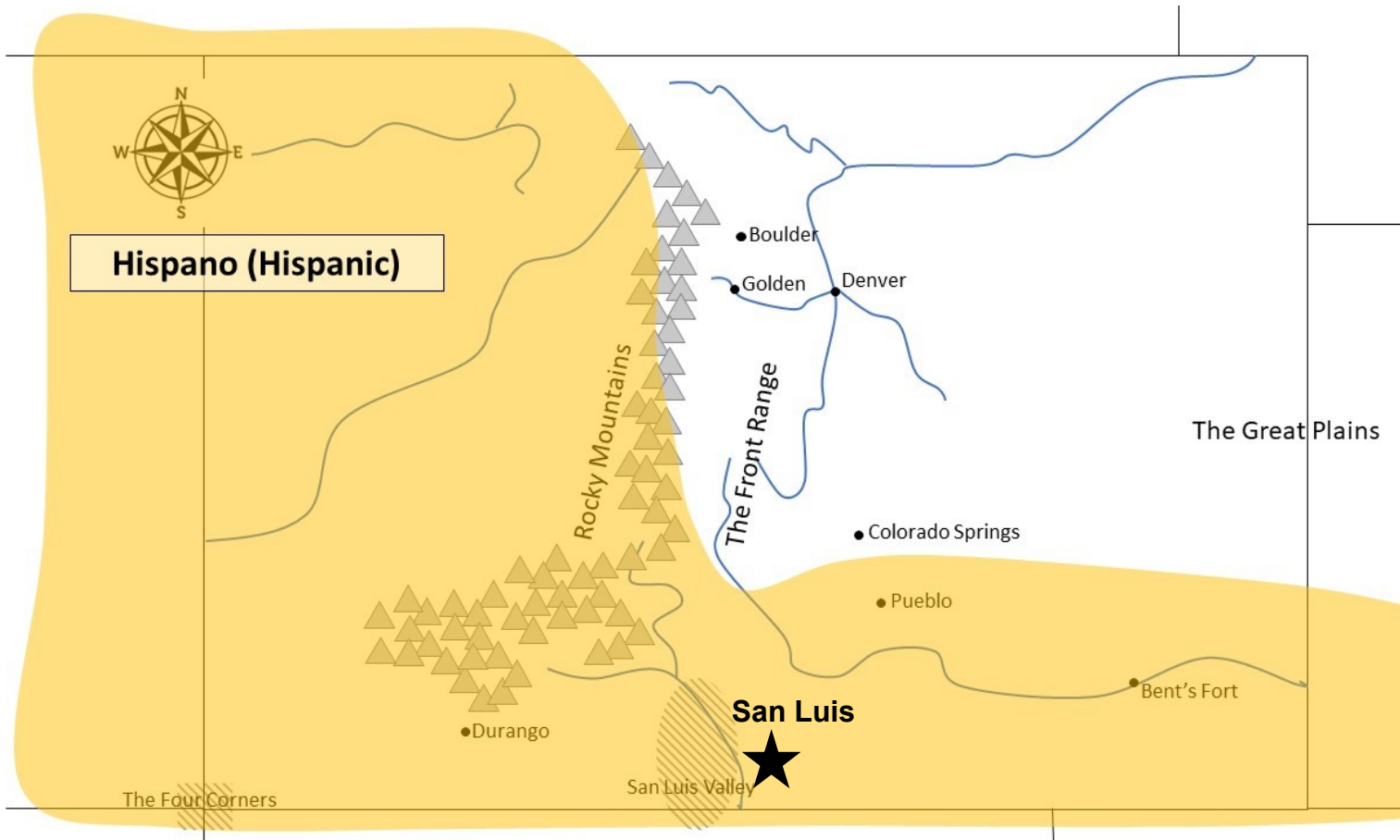
- Hispanos built their houses with the natural resources that were around them.
- In hot and dry areas such as southern Colorado, they built adobe homes. Adobe bricks are made from dirt, clay, and straw.
- In cooler areas, such as the mountains, they built houses out of wood.



# Hispano Traditional Daily Life

## San Luis, Colorado

- San Luis is the oldest non-indigenous settlement in Colorado.
- Hispanos moved into the valley to farm and raise animals such as sheep and cattle. Hay, corn, wheat, and beans were popular crops.
- To help with the dry environment, settlers dug the People's Ditch, also known as the Acequia to bring water from the Culebra River to their fields. This ditch is still used and maintained today.



## Hispano Heritage Today

While they identify by many names, the Hispano population is the largest ethnic group in Colorado. They have impacted economic and political change, served in the U.S. military, and fought for civil rights.

The San Luis Valley is still a very important agricultural center for Colorado. Some crops that are still grown include alfalfa, hay, carrots, wheat, barley, and potatoes.

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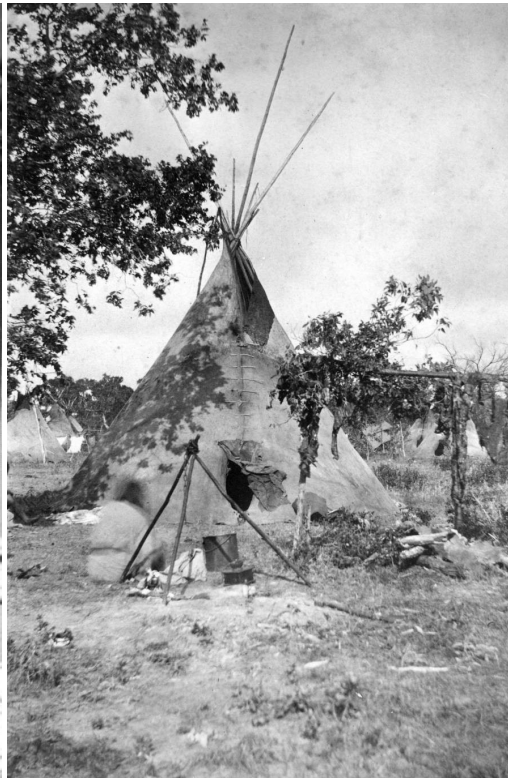
## Community Packet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Tsistsistas (Cheyenne) and Hinono'ei (Arapaho)

### Who are the Tsistsistas?

- Tsistsistas translates to “The People.”
- The Cheyenne were organized into family/ social groups called bands. The Cheyenne people originated by the headwaters (or beginning) of the Mississippi River, which is in the modern state of Minnesota.
- They migrated to the northern and southern plains and the front range of the Rocky Mountains between 1600 and 1700 CE.



### Who are the Hinono'ei?

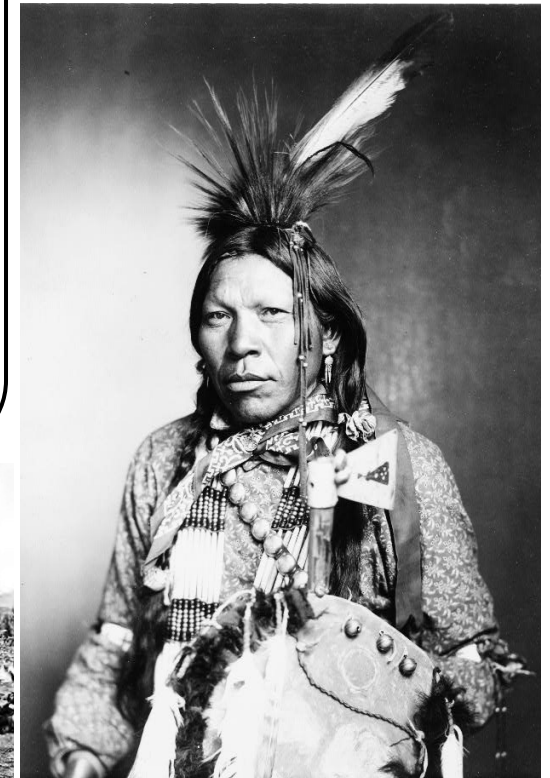
- Hinono'ei translates to “Arapaho people.”
- The Arapaho were organized into family/ social groups called bands. The Arapaho people originated along the Mississippi River in the modern state of Minnesota near Lake Superior.
- They started to migrate west in the 1680s CE.

### Early Allies

There were many tribes that lived within the Great Plains of North America.

The Cheyenne and Arapaho were two tribes that lived and traveled through the modern state of Colorado. They formed alliances, or relationships throughout the 1800s.

Both tribes also spoke (and continue to speak) similar languages.

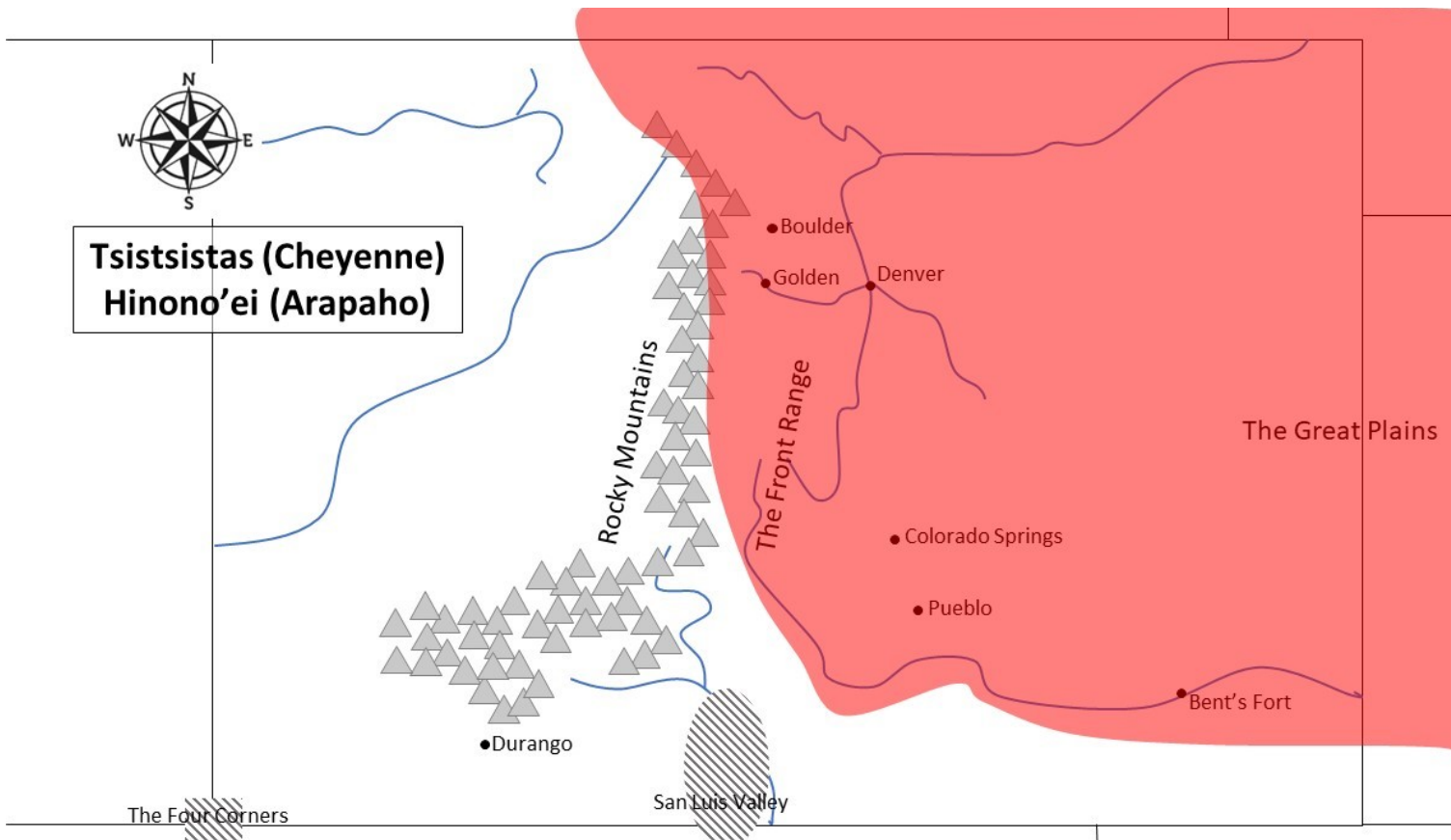




# Traditional Daily Life

- Many Cheyenne and Arapaho were hunter gatherers, meaning they did not grow their food. Some Cheyenne and Arapaho bands formed villages and grew crops such as corn, beans, and squash. Access to water could be a challenge.
- Once they adopted the horse, which were brought to North America by the Spanish, it became easier to hunt. With the horse, the Cheyenne and Arapaho were able to expand their territories and follow the migrating bison herds. Trade was also very important.
- There was a lot of competition for resources between different tribes and settlers. Territory boundaries changed as a result of talks, treaties, battles, and wars between groups.

Many tribes on the Great Plains relied on the bison to survive. Between 1870 and 1880 the bison were almost extinct on the plains, which changed daily life.



## The Cheyenne and Arapaho Today

The Cheyenne and Arapaho today are represented by three tribes: The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of Montana, and the Northern Arapaho Tribe of the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming. While the Cheyenne and Arapaho consider Colorado to be their homeland, they were forced to leave Colorado by U.S. Treaties in the 1860s.

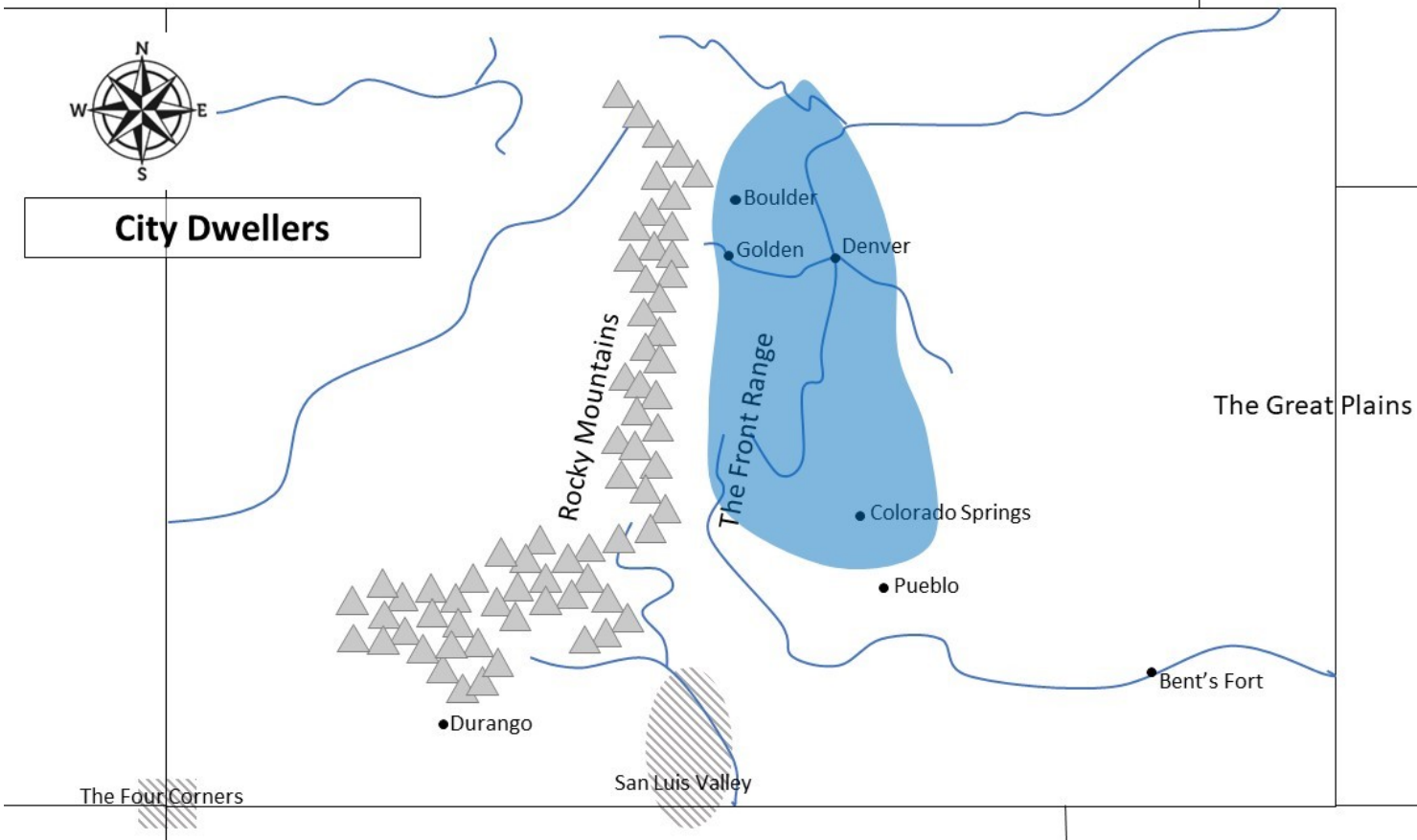
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## Community Packet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## City Dwellers

- City dwellers lived and worked in or near cities. Cities were often founded (or started) near water.
- Many people traveled west in search of new opportunities. Early towns were small with few permanent structures and were often surrounded by farmland. Settlers would build their own simple homes, make their own clothes, and support themselves through farming.

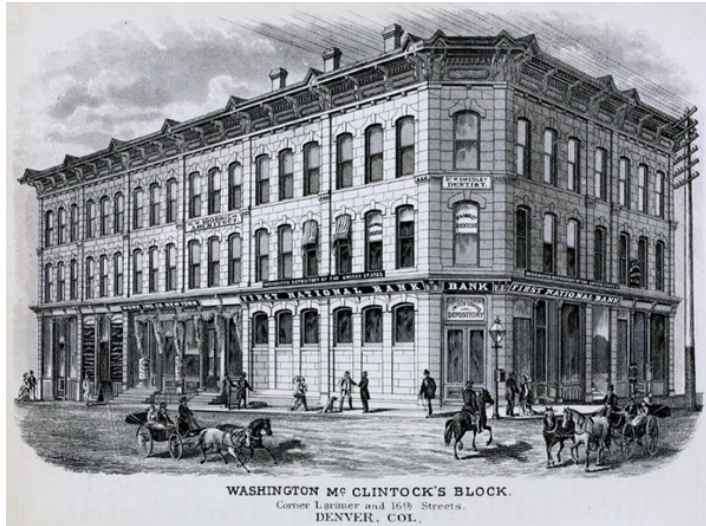


Cities are Founded

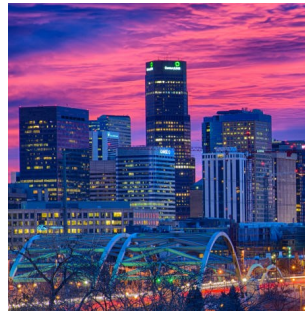
**Denver: 1858**

**Golden City (now Golden),  
Boulder, Colorado City (now  
Colorado Springs): 1859**





- Cities grew quickly when gold was discovered in the 1850s. Cities were very important for supporting the growing mining community. Mining supply stores were some of the earliest businesses. Miners needed food, tools, building materials, and other supplies.
- People living in cities changed their environment by dividing up land, building larger permanent buildings, and creating streets.
- Cities grew quickly to meet the needs of people moving west. Soon stores, banks, hotels, and factories were common.
- Colorado's first railroad arrived in 1869. It connected Denver to the transcontinental railroad in Cheyenne, Wyoming. This made it easier for people to travel. People could now purchase supplies, such as clothing and food, from stores and did not have to make as many of the items they needed to survive.
- Cities did not always offer equal opportunities to everybody that moved there and many newcomers were not treated fairly.



### Colorado Cities Today

Colorado's population continues to grow. By 2030, an estimated 6.5 million people will call Colorado home, up from 5.8 million people in 2020. People continue to move here following opportunities just like the first settlers.





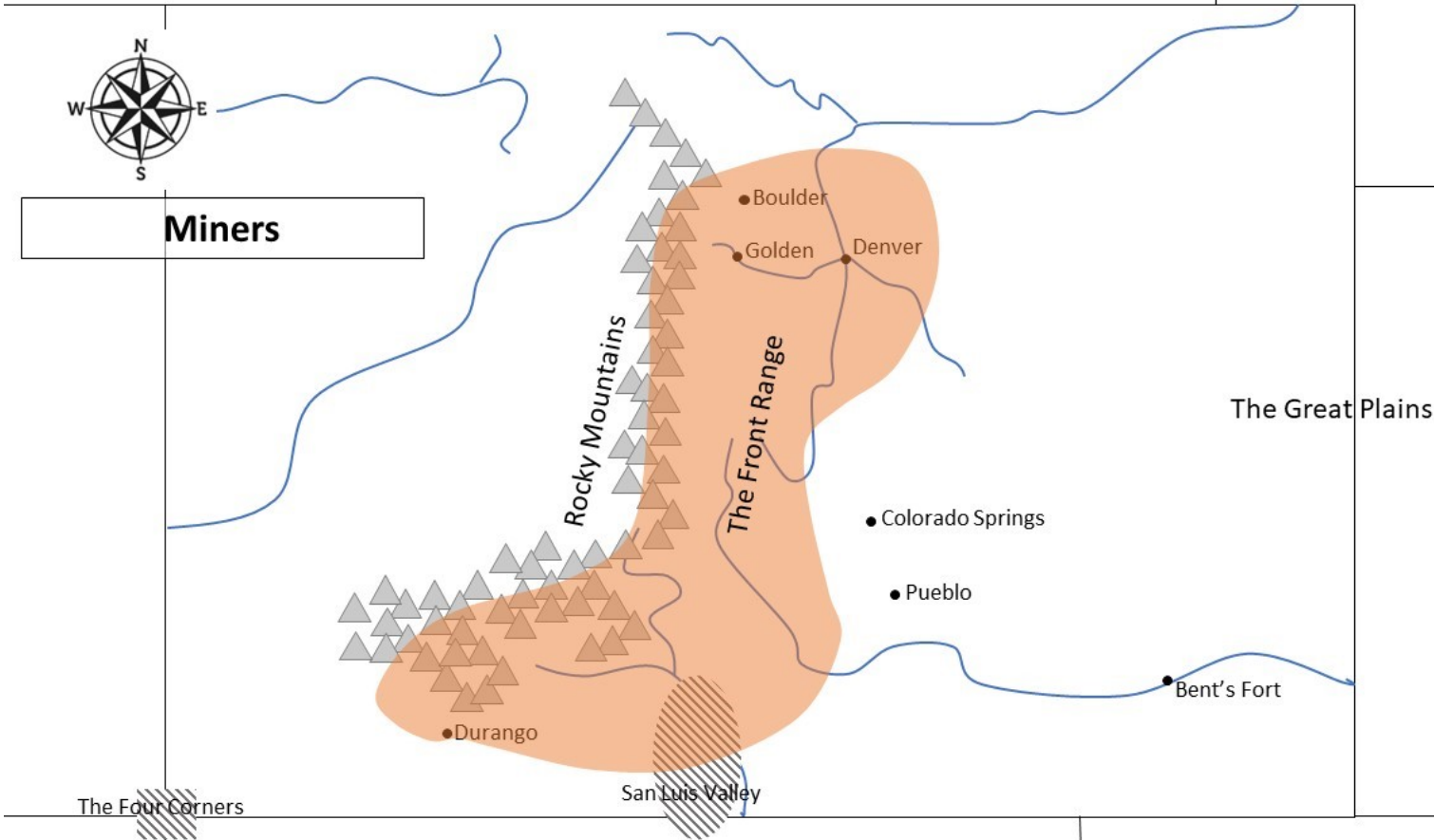
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## Community Packet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Miners

- A miner is a person who takes materials out of the earth such as gold, silver, or coal.
- When gold was discovered in 1858 and 1859, thousands of people headed west from other parts of the United States and all over the world hoping to strike it rich.
- As more prospectors, or people looking for minerals, arrived west, towns began to form to provide the supplies that miners needed.



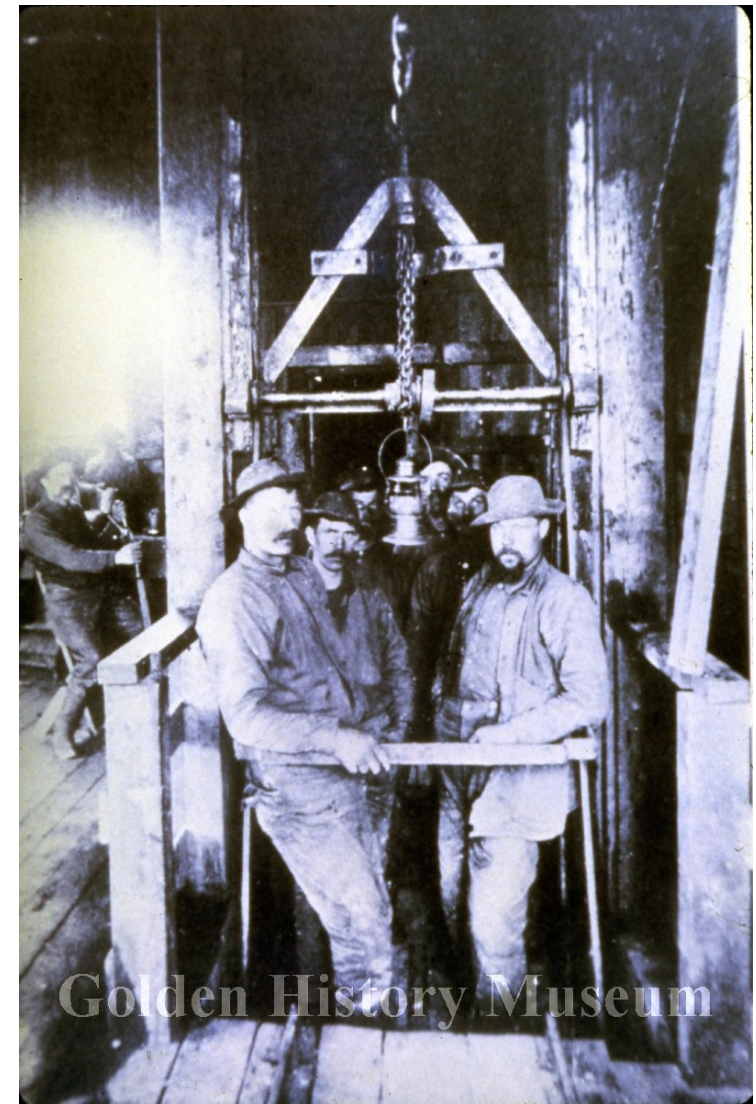
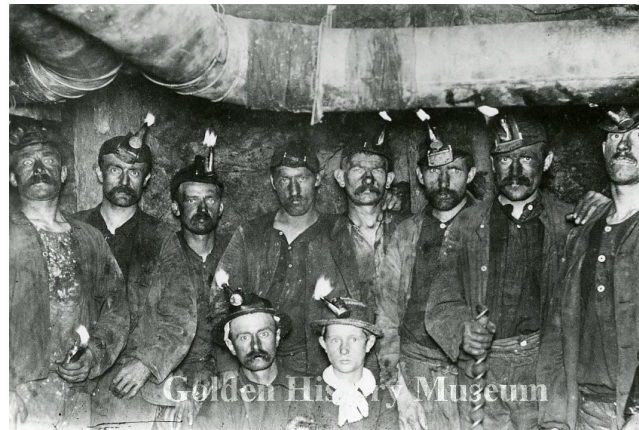
### Types of Mining

**Placer Mining:** Placer mining takes place along creeks and rivers. Miners use the water to separate out minerals from other materials such as dirt or clay. This could be done by hand with a pan, a sluice box, or by machine.

**Hard Rock Mining:** Hard rock mining is the process of removing ore, or rocks that contain minerals, from the ground. It often required digging tunnels into the sides of mountains. It could also be more expensive.



- In the beginning, mining towns were often remote and located in the mountains. They were difficult places to live in the winter and it was hard for miners to get supplies.
- Miners changed the landscape by building mines. They required roads to travel into the mountains, buildings to live in and store machinery, networks of tunnels to mine ore, and then systems of carts and pulleys to transport the ore to be processed elsewhere.
- In the 1870s, mines and mining towns continued to grow with the discovery of silver. This led to the growth of towns like Silverton and Leadville up in the mountains. Even more immigrants from places as diverse as Ireland and China moved to Colorado to become miners.
- The growth of mines in the mountains led to the development of new railway lines. This made the transportation of minerals and supplies easier, creating even more growth.



### Mining in Colorado Today

Coal, gold, gypsum, limestone, sodium bicarbonate, and uranium are all minerals still mined in Colorado. Annually, mining is a \$7 billion dollar industry.



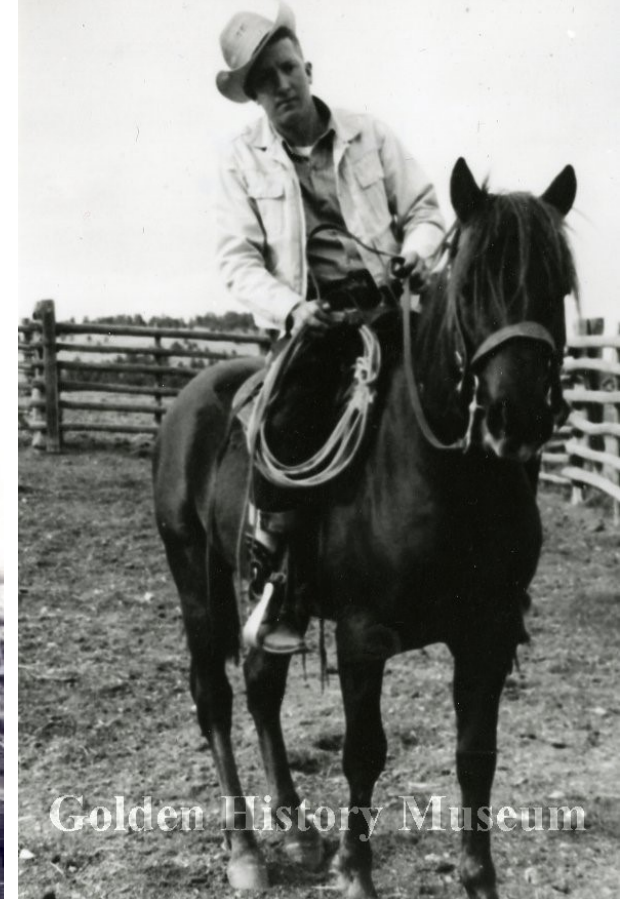
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## Community Packet

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## Homesteaders

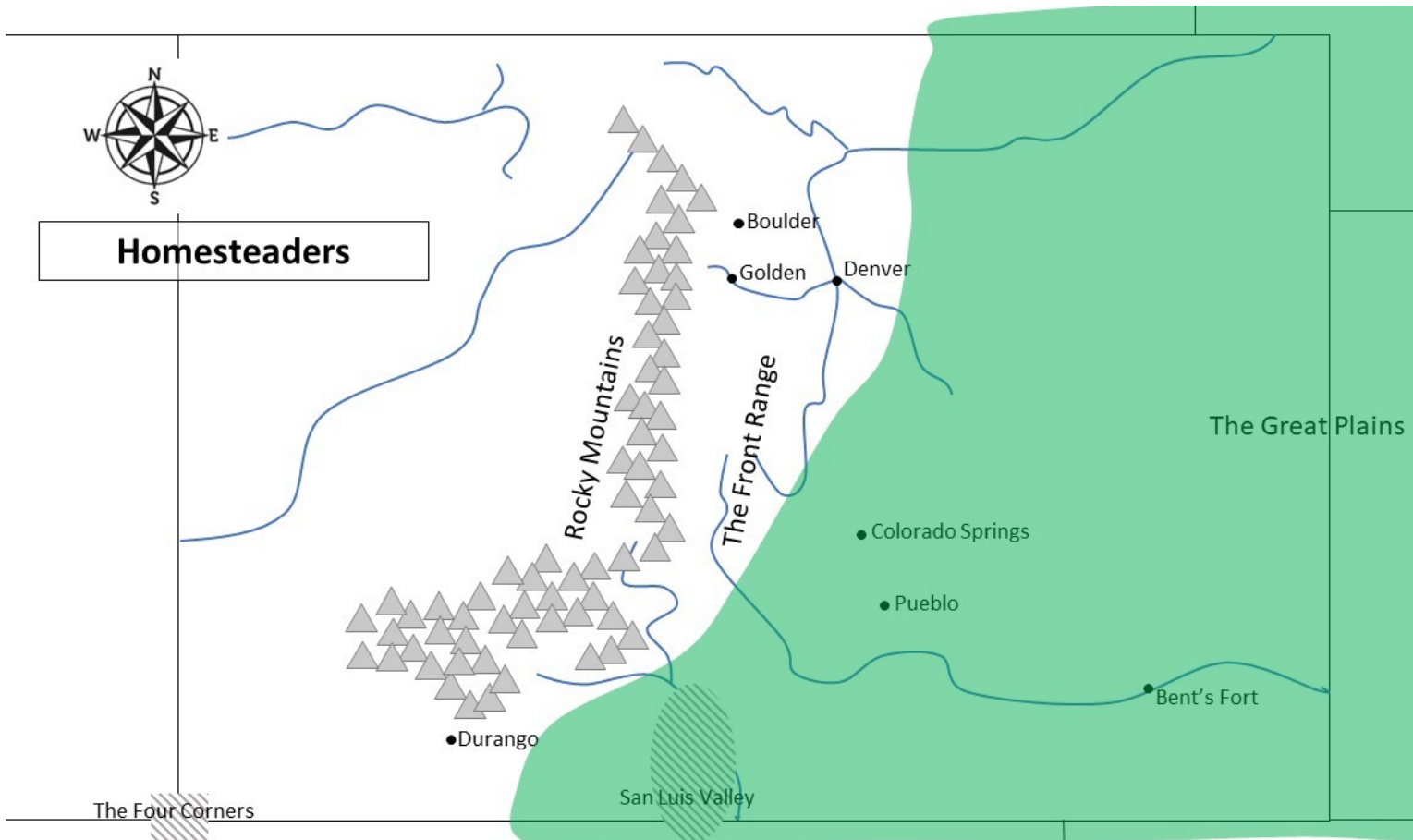
- A homestead was a farm, ranch, or home usually on large piece of land. A homesteader was a person who lived on a homestead.
- People began moving west in the 1850s to escape the densely populated eastern United States in search of new opportunities.
- To encourage people to move west, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Homestead Act in 1862. This act gave citizens up to 160 acres of land if they lived on it, improved it, and paid a small registration fee. One acre is about the size of one football field.



Golden History Museum

Golden History Museums, City of Golden

- Homesteaders made the journey west along routes such as the Santa Fe Trail, the Oregon Trail, and the California Trail. These journeys could take months in a covered wagon and there were many dangers such as disease, starvation, injuries, and conflicts with other travelers or Native Americans.
- Many homesteaders settled in eastern Colorado where there was open grassland and access to water. Homesteaders changed the landscape by building their homes, digging up the soil to create farms and grow crops, and digging wells and irrigation ditches to move water to their fields.
- Homesteads were often isolated. Families grew or made what they needed to survive. They grew foods such as potatoes, corn, and wheat and raised animals such as chickens and cows.
- Once the railroad arrived in Colorado, homesteaders could sell crops to larger groups of people.



### Homesteads Today

Some farms that began with the Homestead Act still exist today, but much of the land has become the towns and cities that make up Colorado. Farming is still very important, especially crops such as potatoes and wheat.